

EXHIBIT 15

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

STAN LEE,)
)
 PLAINTIFF,)
)
VS.) CASE NO. 02-CV-8945 (RSS)
)
MARVEL ENTERPRISES, INC.; ET AL.,)
)
 DEFENDANTS.)
)

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

NOVEMBER 18, 2003

KELLI C. NORDEN
CSR 7200
12782

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DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

09:17:19

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3
4
5 STAN LEE,)
6 PLAINTIFF,)
7 VS.) CASE NO. 02-CV-8945
8 MARVEL ENTERPRISES, INC.,) (RSS)
9 AND MARVEL CHARACTERS,)
10 INC.,)
11 DEFENDANTS.)
12)
13
14
15 DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE, TAKEN ON
16 BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANTS, AT 515
17 SOUTH FLOWER STREET, 25TH FLOOR,
18 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, COMMENCING
19 AT 10:09 A.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18,
20 2003, BEFORE KELLI C. NORDEN, CSR
21 NUMBER 7200.
22
23
24
25

2

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

1 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL:

2
3 FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

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5 BY: JUDITH R. COHEN, ESQ.

- AND -

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- AND -

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23 ALSO PRESENT:

24 ELI BARD, ESQ., MARVEL ENTERPRISES

25 LISA LEVOTE, LEGAL VIDEO SERVICES

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

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2

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4 DEFENDANTS':

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7 DATED 10-19-98 (2 PAGES)

204

8 31 - LETTER TO MR. LEE FROM STAN LEE
9 ENTERTAINMENT INC. DATED 10-15-98
10 (5 PAGES)

222

11

12

13

INFORMATION REQUESTED:

14

(NONE)

15

16

17

18

QUESTIONS UNANSWERED BY THE DEPONENT:

19

(NONE)

20

21

22

23

24

25

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

10:08:49 1 PERMIT MR. LIEBERMAN TO ATTEND THE DEPOSITION, BUT
 10:08:53 2 THAT MR. LIEBERMAN WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO
 10:08:56 3 PARTICIPATE OR CONFER WITH THE WITNESS DURING THE
 10:08:59 4 COURSE OF THE DEPOSITION; AND THAT IF THE
 10:09:03 5 DEFENDANT WAS SO ADVISED AT SOME LATER POINT IN
 10:09:07 6 THE CASE, THE DEFENDANT COULD MOVE TO DISQUALIFY
 10:09:12 7 COUNSEL.
 10:09:13 8 AND WITH THAT NOTATION, I THINK
 10:09:16 9 WE'RE READY TO BEGIN.

10

11 EXAMINATION

10:09:17 12 BY MR. FLEISCHER:
 10:09:17 13 Q. GOOD MORNING, MR. LEE.
 10:09:18 14 A. GOOD MORNING.
 10:09:20 15 Q. IF ANY OF THE QUESTIONS I MAY ASK
 10:09:22 16 DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEPOSITION ARE UNCLEAR TO
 10:09:25 17 YOU OR IN ANY WAY CONFUSING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW
 10:09:31 18 AND I'LL TRY TO REPHRASE THE QUESTIONS SO THEY ARE
 10:09:34 19 CLEAR.
 10:09:35 20 A. THANK YOU.
 10:09:39 21 Q. MR. LEE, WHEN WAS THE FIRST TIME
 10:09:42 22 THAT YOU HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH MARVEL OR ANY OF
 10:09:44 23 ITS PREDECESSOR COMPANIES?
 10:09:46 24 A. EITHER LATE '39 OR EARLY '40.
 10:09:48 25 Q. AND WHAT WAS THE FIRST POSITION YOU

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

10:09:51 1 HAD WITH MARVEL OR ONE OF ITS PREDECESSORS?

10:09:55 2 A. WELL, I WAS REALLY AN ASSISTANT TO

10:09:57 3 THE EDITOR AND THE HEAD ARTIST. ACTUALLY, THE

10:10:03 4 ONLY ARTIST. AND AFTER A SHORT TIME, I BECAME A

10:10:11 5 COPYWRITER.

10:10:11 6 Q. NOW, THE EDITOR AT THAT TIME WAS

10:10:13 7 WHO?

10:10:13 8 A. JOE SIMON.

10:10:15 9 Q. AND HOW LONG WERE YOU MR. SIMON'S

10:10:24 10 ASSISTANT?

10:10:25 11 A. GEE, I DON'T KNOW. A YEAR OR SO.

10:10:33 12 Q. AND WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT YEAR

10:10:34 13 AS MR. SIMON'S ASSISTANT?

10:10:37 14 A. WELL, AT SOME POINT, MR. SIMON AND

10:10:40 15 MR. KIRBY, THE ARTIST, THEY WERE DISMISSED FROM

10:10:42 16 THE COMPANY AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT. SO I

10:10:45 17 BECAME THE EDITOR JUST BECAUSE THERE WAS NOBODY

10:10:51 18 ELSE.

10:10:51 19 Q. AND TO WHOM DID YOU REPORT IN THAT

10:10:53 20 CAPACITY?

10:10:53 21 A. THE PUBLISHER, MARTIN GOODMAN.

10:10:58 22 Q. AND HOW LONG DID YOU REMAIN IN THE

10:11:00 23 POSITION OF EDITOR OF MARVEL'S PREDECESSOR?

10:11:09 24 A. TILL ABOUT 1970.

10:11:11 25 Q. WAS THERE A TIME DURING WHICH YOU

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

10:11:12	1	ENTERED THE MILITARY SERVICE?
10:11:19	2	A. YES. I BELIEVE IT WAS -- LET'S
10:11:20	3	SEE. I GOT OUT IN '45 AND I WAS THERE FOR THREE
10:11:23	4	YEARS, SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN 1942.
10:11:26	5	Q. SO DURING THAT TIME, I ASSUME YOU
10:11:27	6	DIDN'T FUNCTION AS THE EDITOR OF MARVEL?
10:11:29	7	A. NO. I GOT A REPLACEMENT FOR THOSE
10:11:31	8	THREE YEARS, BUT I DID WRITE FOR MARVEL.
10:11:39	9	Q. DURING THOSE THREE YEARS?
10:11:41	10	A. UH-HUH. YES.
10:11:42	11	Q. AND WHAT DID YOU WRITE, IF YOU CAN
10:11:44	12	RECALL?
10:11:45	13	A. COMIC STRIPS.
10:11:47	14	Q. DID YOU CREATE ANY CHARACTERS
10:11:49	15	DURING THOSE THREE YEARS THAT WERE PUBLISHED BY
10:11:53	16	MARVEL?
10:11:53	17	A. NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK I
10:11:55	18	WROTE STORIES ABOUT EXISTING CHARACTERS.
10:11:57	19	Q. DO YOU RECALL WHAT THE NAMES OF
10:11:58	20	THOSE EXISTING CHARACTERS WERE?
10:12:00	21	A. NO. WELL, PROBABLY CAPTAIN AMERICA
10:12:03	22	AND A LOT OF OTHERS. I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THE
10:12:17	23	NAMES.
10:12:17	24	Q. IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR WORK IN
10:12:19	25	COMICS, MR. LEE, WHAT ASPECT OF COMIC BOOK WORK IS

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

10:15:01	1	A. I DON'T THINK I DID. NOT THAT I
10:15:03	2	CAN REMEMBER.
10:15:08	3	Q. WOULD YOU BASICALLY DESCRIBE YOUR
10:15:10	4	DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE EDITOR OF
10:15:14	5	MARVEL OR ITS PREDECESSOR COMPANY AT THE TIME THAT
10:15:18	6	YOU RESUMED THAT POST AFTER RETURNING FROM
10:15:21	7	MILITARY SERVICE IN OR ABOUT 1945.
10:15:26	8	A. WELL, IT WAS MY JOB TO DETERMINE
10:15:29	9	WHAT SCRIPTS -- ALONG WITH THE PUBLISHER, MARTIN
10:15:34	10	GOODMAN, TO DETERMINE WHAT STRIPS WE WOULD
10:15:36	11	PUBLISH, WHAT MATERIAL WE WOULD PUBLISH.
10:15:38	12	ONCE THAT DETERMINATION WAS MADE,
10:15:42	13	IT WAS UP TO ME TO HIRE THE ARTIST, TO EITHER
10:15:46	14	WRITE THE STORY MYSELF OR HIRE A WRITER.
10:15:50	15	IF I HIRED A WRITER, TO MAKE SURE
10:15:53	16	THAT HE WROTE THE STORY THE WAY I WANTED HIM TO
10:15:56	17	AND TO ALSO HIRE THE LETTERERS, THE INKERS, THE
10:16:01	18	COLORISTS, AND GENERALLY, TO MAKE SURE THAT THE
10:16:03	19	WORK WAS AS GOOD AS IT COULD BE.
10:16:09	20	Q. WAS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE WAY
10:16:10	21	YOU WERE COMPENSATED FOR WORK THAT YOU DID ON A
10:16:17	22	PARTICULAR SERIES OF COMIC BOOKS WHERE YOU HAD
10:16:23	23	CREATED THE STORY, WRITTEN THE STORY YOURSELF, AS
10:16:26	24	OPPOSED TO EDITING THE STORY WRITTEN BY SOMEONE
10:16:28	25	ELSE?

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

10:16:28	1	A. COULD YOU SAY THAT AGAIN?
10:16:31	2	Q. WERE YOU PAID ANY DIFFERENTLY IN
10:16:32	3	YOUR CAPACITY AS A WRITER VERSUS AN EDITOR?
10:16:35	4	A. OH, YES. AS AN EDITOR, I RECEIVED
10:16:38	5	A SALARY, BUT I HAD ALWAYS BEEN PAID FOR EVERY
10:16:44	6	STORY I WROTE AS THOUGH I WERE A FREELANCER. I
10:16:50	7	GOT PAID BY THE PAGE, AS ALL THE FREELANCERS DID
10:16:56	8	ALSO.
10:16:59	9	Q. OKAY. CAN YOU RECALL THE NAMES OF
10:17:01	10	THE CHARACTERS, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN
10:17:06	11	CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, THAT YOU WERE INVOLVED IN
10:17:11	12	CREATING AS A WRITER?
10:17:14	13	A. WE'D BE HERE ALL DAY, BUT I CAN --
10:17:18	14	MILLIE THE MODEL, ZIGGY PIG AND SILLY SEAL AND, I
10:17:25	15	THINK, THE DESTROYER.
10:17:29	16	AND YOU KNOW, THERE WERE SO MANY
10:17:33	17	AND I NEVER KNEW I'D BE QUESTIONED ABOUT IT HALF A
10:17:37	18	CENTURY LATER THAT I DIDN'T --
10:17:39	19	I DID SUPERHEROES; I DID WESTERN --
10:17:42	20	THERE WAS KID COLT OUTLAW; THERE WAS THE BLACK
10:17:47	21	RIDER; THERE WAS THE BLACK KNIGHT, THE TWO-GUN
10:17:54	22	KID, COMBAT KELLY, COMBAT CASEY, FLOOP AND
10:18:05	23	SKILLYBOO.
10:18:06	24	I MEAN, I COULD GO ON ALL MORNING.
10:18:08	25	I DID LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF WESTERNS, WAR STORIES,

DEPOSITION OF STAN LEE

10:19:01 1 TOWARDS THE LATTER PERIOD, WHEN WE
10:19:04 2 WERE HEAVILY INVESTED IN SUPERHEROES AND WHEN I
10:19:07 3 CHANGED THE NAME OF THE COMPANY TO "MARVEL COMICS"
10:19:13 4 AND WE DID THE STORIES THAT ARE NOW PRETTY WELL
10:19:15 5 KNOWN OR THE CHARACTERS THAT ARE WELL KNOWN, THERE
10:19:19 6 WERE A FEW ARTISTS THAT I WORKED WITH MORE THAN
10:19:21 7 OTHERS.

10:19:21 8 THERE WAS JACK KIRBY, STEVE DITKO,
10:19:26 9 JOHN ROMITA, GIL KANE, JOHN BUSCEMA AND A FEW
10:19:41 10 OTHERS.

11 BY MR. FLEISCHER:

10:19:41 12 Q. FOCUSING ON THE SUPERHERO GENRE --
10:19:45 13 A. UH-HUH.
10:19:46 14 Q. -- WOULD YOU IDENTIFY THE
10:19:49 15 CHARACTERS THAT YOU CONSIDER THE MOST ENDURING
10:19:52 16 THAT YOU CREATED AS A WRITER.

10:19:53 17 MS. COHEN: OBJECT TO FORM.

10:19:54 18 YOU MAY ANSWER.

10:19:56 19 THE DEPONENT: SPIDER-MAN, THE
10:19:59 20 X-MEN, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, DAREDEVIL, THE
10:20:09 21 FANTASTIC FOUR, IRON MAN, SERGEANT FURY AND HIS
10:20:17 22 HOWLING COMMANDOS, NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD,
10:20:25 23 DOCTOR STRANGE, THE SILVER SURFER.

10:20:32 24 THOSE ARE THE ONES THAT COME TO
10:20:33 25 MIND RIGHT NOW.

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS.

3
4 I, KELLI C. NORDEN, CERTIFIED
5 SHORTHAND REPORTER, CERTIFICATE NUMBER 7200,
6 FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY:

7 THE FOREGOING PROCEEDINGS WERE TAKEN
8 BEFORE ME AT THE TIME AND PLACE THEREIN SET FORTH,
9 AT WHICH TIME THE DEPONENT WAS PLACED UNDER OATH BY
10 ME;

11 THE TESTIMONY OF THE DEPONENT AND ALL
12 OBJECTIONS MADE AT THE TIME OF THE EXAMINATION WERE
13 RECORDED STENOGRAPHICALLY BY ME AND WERE THEREAFTER
14 TRANSCRIBED;

15 THE FOREGOING TRANSCRIPT IS A TRUE AND
16 CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF MY SHORTHAND NOTES SO TAKEN;

17 I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NEITHER
18 COUNSEL FOR NOR RELATED TO ANY PARTY TO SAID ACTION,
19 NOR IN ANY WAY INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME THEREOF.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO
21 SUBSCRIBED MY NAME THIS 1st DAY OF December,
22 2003.

23
24 
25